

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**What is claimed is:**

1. (Previously Presented) A horizontal milling-boring machine comprising:
  - a monolithic horizontal bed anchored to the floor and separated from the work table,
  - a portal formed column structure supported by the bed and slidable therealong, said portal having two columns connected together by an upper crosspiece,
  - a slide carriage slidable vertically along the facing internal walls of said columns,
  - a slide supporting a tool head (34) and movable axially to said carriage in a direction perpendicular to the axis of said bed,
  - guide means and drive means being interposed between said column structure and said bed, wherein the two columns of the portal are lowerly connected through at least a crosspiece placed at a level at least partly lower than the upper surface of said bed.
2. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide means consist of rails positioned on the upper surface of said bed.
3. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide means consist of rails positioned on the lateral surfaces of said bed.
4. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means consist of at least one screw and at least one threaded bush which mutually engage.
5. (Currently Amended) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 4 1, wherein the drive means consist of a rack rigid with said bed and at least one pinion rigid with said portal.

6. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the drive means consist of a linear electric motor.

7. (Currently Amended) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 4 5, wherein the drive means are positioned on the upper surface of said bed.

8. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the drive means are positioned on at least one lateral surface of said bed.

9. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the two columns of the portal formed structure are connected together lowerly by a pair of lower crosspieces which laterally embrace said bed.

10. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the guide rails are interposed between the outer lateral surfaces of said bed and the inner lateral surfaces of said lower crosspieces.

11. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bed comprises a longitudinal recess within which corresponding lower appendices of each column and a connecting portion thereof are slidably housed, said connecting portion being also slidably along said longitudinal recess

12. (Previously Presented) The milling-boring machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein the guide rails are interposed between the internal lateral surfaces of said recess and the facing external lateral surfaces of said appendices.